

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director*



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P.O. Box 1148
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Date Issued: 7/17/2012
Time: 3:00 p.m.

KOTZEBUE COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING OPENINGS

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for 8 hours daily from the hours of 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. beginning Tuesday, July 17 until 4 a.m. Saturday, July 21 in the Kotzebue District.

Fishermen are reminded to check with Great Pacific if the buyer needs to shorten the hours they will buy fish because of limited capacity or airline schedules.

Catch during the first week of commercial fishing was nearly 15,000 chum salmon and was the best catch for opening week since 1995. There has been three days elapsed since the last commercial fishing opening. This three day window of no commercial fishing should provide sufficient early escapement up river and allow for good subsistence fishing. Having eight hour commercial fishing periods daily with a weekend closure should not jeopardize making escapement goals or limiting subsistence opportunity.

If you have any questions concerning the fishery you can call the Kotzebue office at 442-3420, or the Commercial Fisheries office in Nome at 1-800-560-2271 or the buyer at 442-4192.